

Washington State Environmental Public Health Tracking Network (EHPTN)

School Health Initiative ~

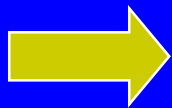
Washington State Board of Health
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Pew Environmental Health Commission Conclusions (synopsis)

- Prevalence of many chronic diseases increasing
- Environmental factors may contribute
- Little is known about potential links
- No system in place to assess possible effects



**Need a system to track and link
environmental data and health
outcomes!!!....**

The Network is envisioned to.....

- Track disease and exposures to target interventions to those populations most affected by environmental hazards and exposures.
- Detect new adverse health events associated with environmental exposures.
- Detect unusual occurrences, trends, or clusters of specific health events associated with environmental exposures.

Network Development Activities in Washington State

- Washington Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS)
- Environmental Information Management System (EIM)
- Fish Tissue Contamination - Birth Defects Demonstration Project
- Exposure Tracking
- School Environment and Health Tracking Pilot Project

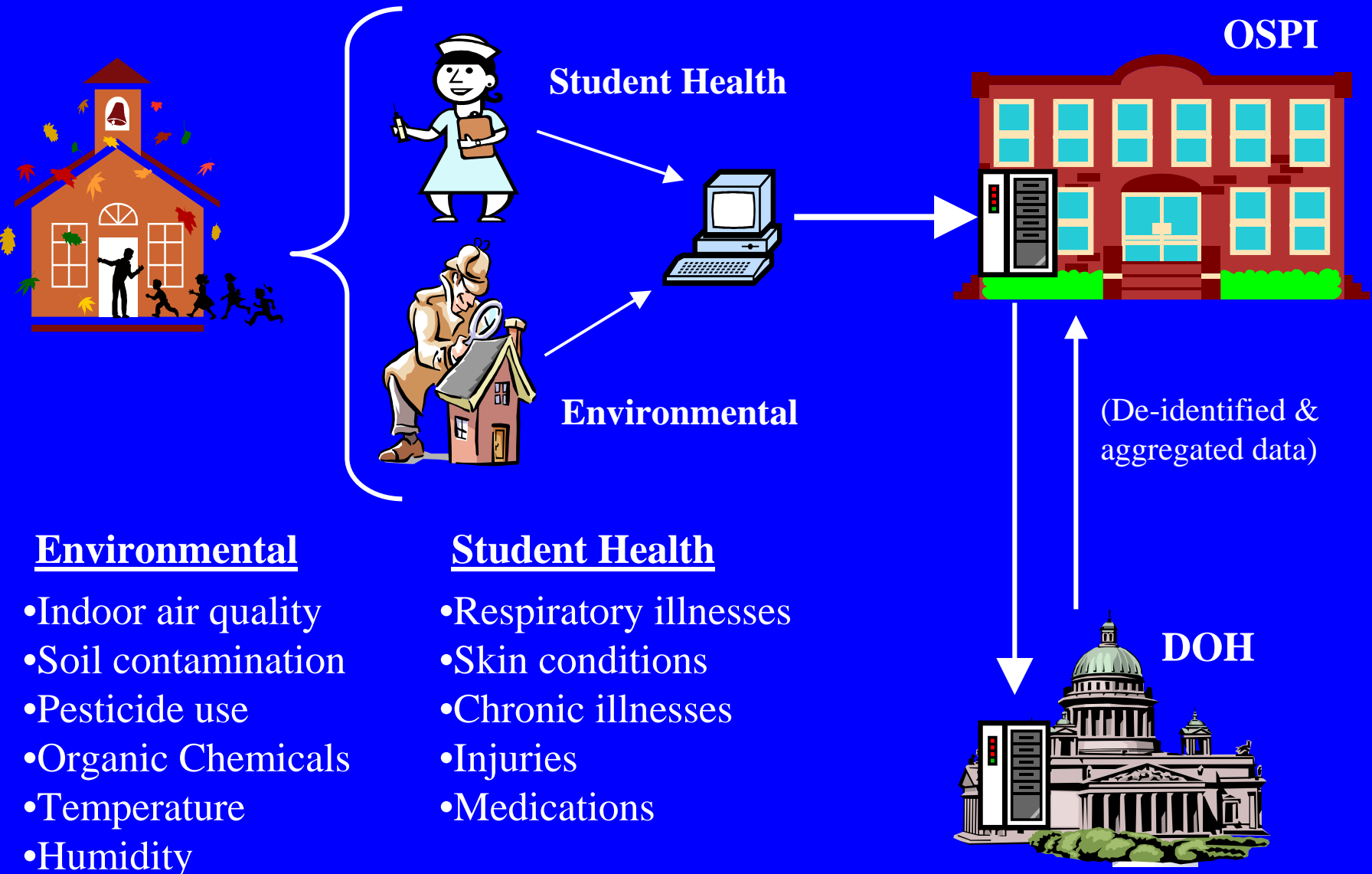
Justification?

- North Elementary, 1994
(Everett School District, Snohomish, Co., \$850K)
- Cle Elum Roslyn High School, 2001
(Kittitas, Co. \$650K)
- Artondale Elementary, 2002
(Kitsap, Co., \$810K)

School Pilot Project

- Focus: enhance & integrate existing data collection systems
- Variable district policies & procedures
- Available technology & personnel
- Simple with technical support
- Training, cooperation & communication with front-line users
- Coordination & integration with LHJ

School Environment and Health Tracking Pilot Project (three school districts)



Benefits To Public Health

- Base-line health data for school children
- Basis for prevention
- Population health indicators
- Understand environmental risks and health outcomes
- Improved learning
- Link to public health preparedness
- Agency collaboration

Activity Overview:

- Research existing systems
- Characterize existing activities within Washington State
- Systems development planning
- Communication and coordination

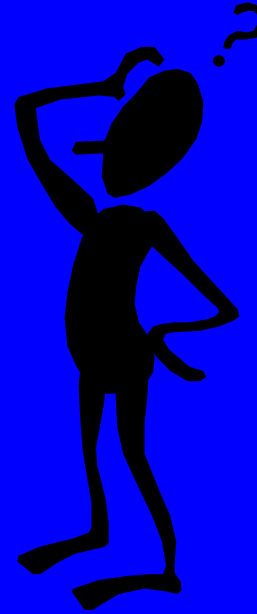
School surveillance system ~ vision

- Three school districts (pilot project)
- Systematic electronic data collection
- Consistent data reporting between districts
- Integration and collaboration with LHJ
- Periodic review & evaluation
- Response and resource allocation

Project Milestones

- January 2004 – selection of participating school districts
- May 2004 – surveillance system planning complete
- September 2004 – data exchange systems developed, data collection initiated
- May 2005 – project evaluation/assessment initiated

Questions?



Thank You!